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REPORT

MONTANA. DEPT. OF LABOR AND
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HELENA, MONTANA 59601OLIVER SULLIVAN
COMMISSIONERELMER A. RUDE
DEPUTY COMMISSIONERHon. J. Hugo Aronson
Governor of Montana
Capitol Building
Helena, Montana

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Dear Governor Aronson:-

I herewith submit a brief report on the activities of the Department of Labor and Industry for the year ending December 1957.

The main duties of this Department are confined to the enforcement of the eight hour law, the enforcement of Child Labor Laws, and the assistance in the collection of unpaid wages.

Most of the employers in the State understand the Child Labor Laws. Only a few minor infractions were observed. During the year, the Department issued 1,715 Certificates of Age for Minors. This was 71 below a year ago, which shows that the work available for minors was about the same as last year.

The majority of work in the Department consists of giving assistance to employees in the collection of unpaid wages. The Department was in receipt of 121 wage claims during the year, totaling \$23,475.63, averaging \$194.01 per claim. Of this number, the Department was able to collect 47 of them with wages in the amount of \$6,003.39, averaging \$127.72 per claim. There were 21 complaints sent in about the non-payment of wages, which had no amount stated, and when statements of claim were sent them, they were never returned. There were 57 claims which were either not legitimate or required other action on the part of the employee, this Department having no jurisdiction in these cases. As present, there are 17 claims pending.

The Department had submitted a budget request for the fiscal years of 1957-58 and 1958-1959 to the State Controller in the amount of \$21,135.00 per fiscal year. This increase was being asked with the anticipation of new legislation being enacted which would have required additional funds. The Legislature granted us an appropriation in the amount of \$15,095.00 per fiscal year, and as no new legislation was enacted which would have added more duties, the Department should find this appropriation sufficient for its operation. At the end of the fiscal year, June 30, 1957, we reverted \$6,396.55 of our appropriation of \$32,550.00 for the fiscal years of 1955-56 and 1956-57 to the General Fund.

Respectfully,

Oliver Sullivan
Commissioner of Labor & Industry

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